

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 4-6 have been cancelled. It is submitted no new matter has been added.

II. Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the claimed feature: "incoming mail sorting apparatus", "storing a piece count" and "calculating incoming sorting cost information using the piece count". Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for Figs. 2 and 3 to overcome the aforesaid 37 CFR 1.83(a) rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph. As mentioned above claims 4-6 have been cancelled, thus this rejection with respect to these claims is now moot.

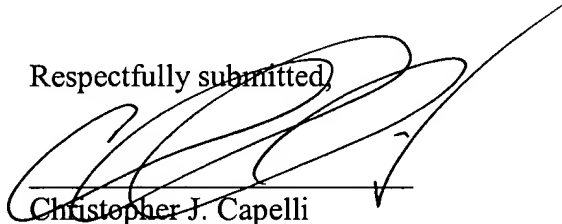
Applicants attorney would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies exchanged during a telephonic interview conducted on July 10, 2003. In accordance with the agreement that was reached with respect that interview, independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome the aforesaid 35 USC § 112 rejection.

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that pending claim 1 and depending claims 2 and 3 are now in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3 are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, he is kindly urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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